

**ALTON BOX FACTORY**  
Aurora, Dearborn County, IN  
Revised December 30, 1999**Site Location and Description**

This site is located in the City of Aurora on the Ohio River, just off George Street near U.S. 50. A B&O rail line runs immediately adjacent to the property. The property is approximately 6.3 acres with 9 acres of railroad right-of-way, and is within the 27 year flood plain. The property is across the street from an abandoned Middle School that has also been identified as a brownfields site.

Zip Code: 47001

**Site Uses and Past Activities**

The original purpose of the building on this site was to manufacture wagon wheels during the Civil War. It has had several uses since then, but the main use has been as a box factory. Its most recent use was for dry storage for other industries in the area. Currently, the building is not in use.

**Contaminants and Impacts**

Petroleum contamination is known to exist in the basement of the building but appears to be limited to the basement. IDEM is currently reviewing assessment reports generated from the investigation activities to determine the extent of that contamination.

**Lead Agency**

IDEM in conjunction with the Indiana Development Finance Authority

**Community Concerns**

The Dearborn County Economic Development Commission has been involved in promoting redevelopment at this site, as well as other sites in the area. The area around the Alton Box Factory has developed well, but due to unknown environmental conditions, the box factory has not been successful at attracting developers. A Brownfields Roundtable was conducted in the City of Aurora to discuss redevelopment issues, and there have been favorable discussions at the City County Council meetings. This project is important to the community because it is one of the most visible sites in the City. It is hoped that future job creation will contribute to the economic well being of the City of Aurora.

**Actions Taken**

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Land Quality

The Town of Aurora was awarded Indiana Brownfields Site Assessment Grants by the Indiana Development Finance Authority in February 1999 and in August 1999. The awarded funding will help address environmental conditions at the property and potential liabilities. Once the environmental issues are identified and resolved, reuse of these sites should contribute to the overall well being of the Town of Aurora.

**Current Status**

IDEM has provided oversight for on-site activities and has received the assessment reports generated from the Phase I investigation activities. IDEM is awaiting copies of the Phase II assessment reports from Aurora's environmental consultant to complete its review.

In November 1999, IDEM met with representatives from the Dearborn County Chamber, City of Aurora officials, and a potential buyer of the property to discuss the reuse of the property.

**Future Actions**

IDEM staff will review the assessment documents submitted to IDEM to ensure environmental objectives are met and discuss future steps as necessary to facilitate the Town of Aurora's redevelopment efforts.

**Cost Estimates**

Amount of grants awarded: \$17,890 and \$4,300

**For More Information**

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